



Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
2012 Governor's Hometown Awards



CUP WINNER

City of East St. Louis
F.R.E.S.H. Community Teaching Garden
Population Division V
General

Ever since the manufacturing backbone began to wither away, the community of East St. Louis has become sadly accustomed to a perpetually collapsing economy. According to the 2010 Census, a full half of the City's residents are not involved in the labor force and 37.3% live in poverty. Of great concern to the East Side Health Department was the scarcity of healthful foods. Few full-line groceries operate in the City and many residents have no means of personal transportation to get there while a plethora of fast-food chains are close by. The population is simultaneously becoming overweight, undernourished, and "hungry".

The goal of the Foods Raised at East Side Health (F.R.E.S.H.) Community Teaching Garden were to nourish the individual and the community of East St. Louis through the volunteer production of healthful foods. Central to this was the concept of "upcycling" to convert waste materials or useless products into something of value. This concept was carried throughout the planning and implementation of the garden.

The future site of the garden, an abandoned parking lot, was choked with overgrowth and illegally dumped trash overflowing the chain-link fence that surrounded it. Armed with chainsaws and with help from public workers and businesses, volunteers cleared the abandoned lot down to the crumbling asphalt. But asphalt would not grow vegetables.

The effort was noticed by a swath of state agencies and they combined in a venture that came to be known as "Mud to Community Gardens". The Illinois Department of Natural Resources provided silt dredged from Pere Marquette State Park Harbor, which was tested for safety by the Environmental Protection Agency. The silt was then sent via a fleet of Department of Transportation dump trucks to the garden site. The Department of Agriculture provided the seed for the garden through a grant.

With space, soil and seed in hand, the East Side Health Department began to create the garden. Consistent with the "upcycling" ethos of the project, much of the trash that previously blighted the location became useful features. Discarded tires became beds for potatoes, bricks were used to create an herb garden, old ironing boards were painted and turned into worktables, crumbling concrete was



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crushed and converted into a garden walking trail and discarded burlap sacks were used to block weed growth. The garden also has composting facilities, allowing garden waste to be broken down and converted into useful soil.

As the garden began to take shape, area universities began to show interest. One designed the layout, another helped determine the crops and volunteers from three others constructed the handicapped-accessible raised garden beds. Numerous businesses provided funding for garden tools, educational materials, promotion, and a children's center.

The garden offers a hands-on-approach that assists urban families in learning organic agricultural practices and offers enormous benefits that promote public health, wellness and a healthier quality of life.

Total Number of Volunteers:	300
Total Volunteer Hours:	2,556
Total People Impacted:	4,825
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 75,000
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 10,000

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Cup Finalists

Population Division I

General

Martinsville on the Move

City of Martinsville

By March, 2010, the unemployment rate in Martinsville was almost double the national average and ranked in the top five counties for unemployment in Illinois. The rural community also suffered with half of the households earning less than \$25,000 per year and a continual population decline. As a result, the community faced a number of challenges.

Martinsville on the Move was organized by a group of citizens to help revitalize the deteriorating community, preserve the history and bring renewed pride to the citizens. "Community Chats" identified key projects and focus areas. At the same time it was recognized that the local government had limited funds and that the remaining businesses in the area were continually targeted for donations to school and community activities. A unique source of funds was necessary.

That source was the opening of a community-run resale shop which in turn has funded all the projects. To date that includes:

- Placement and maintenance of flower pots in the downtown area. A partnership with the high school agriculture class and Lake Land College's Horticulture Department provides all the flower seedlings during warm months, while greenery from a local Christmas tree farm is used during the holidays.
- Organizing and staffing two festivals: the National Road Festival and a Hometown Christmas Festival. Both festivals included a variety of events, all free, and were held at the city park.
- Increased community communication by raising funds for an electronic community sign, establishing a website and printing a business directory.
- Creation of a Community Pride Campaign which recognizes homes and businesses for physical improvements, thereby making Martinsville a more attractive place to live and work.
- Awarded two \$500 grants to downtown businesses for façade renovation.
- Organized a Farmer's Market held at the fairgrounds monthly June to October.
- Established a \$500 scholarship to be given to a graduating senior.
- Sponsored two volunteers to attend the Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs Conference to bring back ideas that could be utilized in Martinsville
- Funded the City's MAPPING process through the IIRA that helps develop a strategic vision for the community and economic development.

Total Number of Volunteers:	118	Florence Mathieu-Conner
Total Volunteer Hours:	2,983	9806 N. 1170 Street
Total People Impacted:	more than 1,200	Martinsville, IL 62442
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 15,800	217/264-6310
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 3,522	mathieufl@hotmail.com

Cup Finalists

Population Division II

Memorials and Monuments

Veteran's Recognition

Village of Tremont

As it was for many communities, September 11th, 2001 and the subsequent military actions increased awareness of the sacrifices of military service. The Village of Tremont wanted to make sure their local Veterans received their due recognition and that a permanent memorial was needed. The community desired several specific elements for the space: an engraved monument, a military artifact, a local artifact, a physical forum for families to recognize their loved ones.

The project required specialized skills for many of its' components. A local landscape architect, area contractors, excavators, electricians, truck drivers and laborers donated their services while volunteers assisted. A local non-profit handled donations and provided seed money.

For the military artifact, the community asked for and was given an 11,300 pound anchor from the United States Navy. The anchor was trucked to Tremont from Virginia and required sandblasting, re-painting, and seven yards of concrete for a secure foundation. The local element came from a large boulder found on an area farm. The boulder was split in two and lifted by crane to be moved into its' position on either side of the commemorative brick walkway. The walkway provides an opportunity for veterans to be honored by their families as well as providing the majority of funding for the project. An engraved monument was designed to balance the anchor in the overall memorial design.

An additional project goal was to involve the youth in the community. Local schools each incorporated the study of veterans into their curriculum. Students also participated in the dedication ceremony which drew two thousand attendees. This permanent installation is a legacy that will honor veterans in perpetuity.

Total Number of Volunteers:	35
Total Volunteer Hours:	624
Total People Impacted:	2,000
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 47,430
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 41,005

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Cup Finalists

Population Division III

Parks and Recreation

Skate Park within Koeningsmark Park

City of Waterloo

Several years ago the Waterloo community was experiencing issues with kids wanting to practice their hobby of skate-boarding and biking. With no place to go they took over parking lots and sidewalks, which created a safety and liability issue. The Waterloo Optimist Club recognized the need and began researching what would be needed for a Skate Park.

As the Optimist Club already had \$88,000 for a community project, the initial challenge was to find a suitable location. After several failed attempts they secured the old tennis courts space within Koeningsmark Park. A grant from the Illinois Municipal Electricity Agency and a loan taken by the Optimist Club completed the funding. Fundraising efforts continue to pay down the loan, of which forty percent has already been paid.

The funds paid for all the equipment necessary for a skate park while thirty-five union members converged to pour and finish more than 140 yards of concrete. The City's electrical department installed the outdoor lighting.

On November 12, 2011, Waterloo city officials joined members of the Chamber of Commerce, Park District, Police Department, Optimist Club and local youth in the official dedication of the Skate Park. After the event, the Optimist Club presented the Park District with the Skate Park – free of charge – and built with no cost to taxpayers or the Park District.

One unexpected result of this project was the opening of a new business, "My Skate Shop". It is the brainchild of a seventeen year old who partnered with her aunt. They offer skateboard and bike parts. Those utilizing the Skate Park have taken great pride and ownership in it. No vandalism has occurred to the park or surrounding area and youth-crime has decreased in other areas of the community.

Total Number of Volunteers:	125
Total Volunteer Hours:	1,490
Total People Impacted:	7,000
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 40,750
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 88,000

Julie Yeager
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Cup Finalists

Population Division IV

Memorials and Monuments

Women Veteran's Recognition

City of Mt. Vernon

Memorials to Veterans abound throughout Illinois and the U.S., honoring those who have served and defended our country. But notably lacking is memorials to the women who have served in the military in many different capacities.

Mt. Vernon is known as a city of sculpture with an active art community. Its' C.E. Brehm Memorial Library also houses the Illinois Daughters of the American Revolution genealogy collection and has a history of supporting the troops dating back to World War I. The grounds of the Library seemed a perfect location then to erect a memorial in honor of women veterans.

The DAR wanted to make sure the project was a community project for Mt. Vernon and not just a DAR project. Partnerships were quickly established with city officials, library board, and other local groups and individuals. Businesses and professionals were called upon to design the site which includes a block wall with engraved names of women veterans that surrounds the sculpture. A local contractor volunteered hours and equipment for preparation while the American Legion provided the statue's granite base. Master Gardener's provided landscape materials. At every turn, someone was willing to step forward to make this dream a reality. Ground was broken for the memorial in February and the dedication ceremony was held in June, 2011.

All the goals were met and the beautiful and historic statue is a striking landmark for the city. The Library has held programs to help educate people about the service of women in the military and to reflect upon their sacrifices. Many visitors come to pay their respects. The memorial area has become a lasting tribute to the women who have defended their country and rightfully deserve this honor.

Total Number of Volunteers:	2,250
Total Volunteer Hours:	30,500
Total People Impacted:	150,000
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 15,500
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 131,000

Bonnie Jerdon
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Cup Finalists

Population Division VI

Services and Mentorship

Real Men Read

City of Springfield

We all know having a positive male role model in a child's life is important, but in today's world many children are growing up without one in the home. We also know learning to read is also vital to success but books are not nearly as attractive as computer and video games to a child. Springfield Real Men Read was created to meet these needs.

A male mentor is assigned a specific class and remains with them from October through May. Once a month, the mentor visits to read a selected book to his class. Students in the program receive a free copy of the book and are encouraged to re-read it, take it home and share with family and siblings. Middle school students were targeted for the pilot program as the number of outside volunteers they come in contact with at this stage of life is far fewer than when they were younger. Seven mentors were selected for the pilot in 2009-2010 of which four remain with the program. Sixty mentors participated in 2011. Funds for the free books come from a generous business community.

Through this unique program volunteers not only read to the students but impress upon them the relationship between reading and their future success. Survey results show that seventy-five percent of seventh graders said they were inspired to read more as a result of the program and eighty-two percent said they would like to participate again next year.

Total Number of Volunteers:	60
Total Volunteer Hours:	1,400
Total People Impacted:	3,000
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 5,000
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 20,000

Donna A. Treadwell
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Project Winners

Division I Communities with a Population of 0 - 1,500

History and Historic Preservation

Ullin Depot Project

Village of Ullin

Once the hub of the community, the vacant railroad depot in Ullin was moved across the street to become a warehouse in 1972. By 1997 the railroad was going to tear down the landmark but the community rallied to save it. Their goal was to move the depot back to its' original location and then refurbish it to use as the City Hall and Library.

Starting with no dedicated funds to support the project, this was a long and arduous process but the fewer than one thousand residents were determined. Bake sales, a Senior Citizen's Prom and other fundraisers were held. A Library Committee was formed. Plaques to be placed on the wall were sold. Finally, in order to help complete the project, the Village borrowed the remaining necessary funds.

It took fifteen years for the project to come to fruition but now the restored depot is again the hub of Ullin.

Total Number of Volunteers:	30	Mike DeWitt
Total Volunteer Hours	2,000	P.O. Box 187
Total People Impacted:	more than 800	Ullin, IL 62992
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 11,000	618/845-3612
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 21,000	villageofullin@yahoo.com

Memorials and Monuments

Soldier's Memorial

Village of Beckemeyer

Though just a short distance from major interstates and the metropolis of St. Louis, Beckemeyer is nestled among fields and forests on the edge of Carlyle Lake. With fewer than three hundred families and just over one thousand people, it is a tight-knit community. Pride runs deep here. Nowhere is that more evident than when it comes to veterans.

American Legion Post 1227 was established in Beckemeyer in 1954 and has an active membership. Though not a veteran himself, Tom Mensing has strong ties to military service. His father served in World War II and his brother died in Vietnam. To honor them, and all those who served their country, Mensing developed an idea for a memorial situated outside of the American Legion.

The memorial includes two silhouettes, one being the Fallen Soldier Battle Cross, which is an arrangement of combat boots, rifle with bayonet and helmet; and the other a soldier kneeling in reverence to the cross. The silhouettes flank a monument engraved with Charles Province's "It Is The Soldier" poem. All materials for the memorial were donated and volunteers helped erect and landscape the memorial.

Total Number of Volunteers:	11	Tom Mensing
Total Volunteer Hours:	70	13823 Highline Road
Total People Impacted:	1,100	Carlyle, IL 62231
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 1,644	618/972-8292
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 0	tntmensing@wisperhome.com

Project Winners

Division I Communities with a Population of 0 - 1,500

Parks and Recreation

Salt Lick Point Stewardship Committee

Village of Valmeyer

Following the 1993 flood, the entire village of Valmeyer relocated to an adjoining blufftop out of the Mississippi floodplain. The move led to the acquisition of mineral rights and 700 acres of forest. The blufftop forest was too rugged for development, however, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Nature Preserves Commission were interested in establishing the area as a land and water reserve.

In 2005 the area was designated as the Salt Lick Point Land and Water Reserve and the Stewardship Committee was established by the Village Board to assist in the management of the area. The Committee uses the Village's comprehensive plan as their guide. Accomplishments include cleaning up a tire dump site on the property, establishing a walking trail network, erecting warning and interpretive signage and installing benches and mileage markers. The Committee works closely with IDNR and INPC to remove invasive species, assist with controlled burns, propagate endangered species plants. Activities peaked in 2011 with many ongoing tasks completed.

Total Number of Volunteers:	11	Dennis Valentine
Total Volunteer Hours:	3,965	626 S. Meyer Ave.
Total People Impacted:	12,000	Valmeyer, IL 62295
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 5,175	618/935-2131
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 1,400	valclerk@htc.net

Services and Mentorship

He'Brews Teen Center

Village of Louisville

With teen drinking, drug abuse and car accidents on the rise, Louisville Village officials, school administrators, parents and residents agreed young people needed someplace to go besides parking lots and country roads.

The first teen center was in an empty house near the high school. Volunteers renovated the entire house with donated and discounted materials. After several years the Center needed a better location and moved to an existing business site on the town square. It now boasts a 1950's era soda fountain with coffee house seating, video games, ping pong tables, musical instruments and computers. Special activities are planned during the year including bands, street basketball tournaments, pool tournaments and special guests. The Center is open weekend nights to ages 14-20.

An election at the high school named the Center He'Brews which illustrates the relaxed atmosphere but also represents faith and virtue. Local businesses, the Village and periodic fundraisers support the Center and programs. Volunteers serve as chaperones and concessionaires.

Total Number of Volunteers:	50	Jean Ann Poehler
Total Volunteer Hours:	1,920	1230 Kinmundy Road
Total People Impacted:	2,000	Louisville, IL 62858
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$150,000	618/665-3945
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 9,125	prairiepure@gmail.com

Project Winners

Division II Communities with a Population of 1,501 – 5,000

General

New Business Attraction Efforts

Village of Riverton

In 2011, Riverton lost its' only manufacturing facility. The loss of jobs and revenue hit hard and it was recognized that the Village needed a project to spark rejuvenation to its' economy. Riverton is one of a handful of municipalities that own all of their utilities and thus, if operated as a business to attract customers, the utility could be the impetus needed.

When an inquiry about annexing nearby land came from a state of the art recycling facility, the Village took the opportunity to update utilities and use them to attract the new business. Studies of electric use in similar facilities were completed and projected rates of utility competitors evaluated. Armed with this information, the Village could then offer a competitive utility rate. Once the business committed to the location, the Village worked with the Sangamon County Greater Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce to apply for grants to supplement existing funding in order to extend the utilities.

Not only did the Village successfully attract a new business that created 25 new jobs, utility rates for all residents were able to be reduced and homes along the route not currently served were able to add in.

Total Number of Volunteers:	8	Richard Pottier
Total Volunteer Hours:	600	29 Powell
Total People Impacted:	3,455	Riverton, IL 62561
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 0	217/522-7865
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 5,000,000	rpottier@knrwards.com

Parks and Recreation

Pike County Skate Park

City of Pittsfield

Rural communities often lack recreational activities for youth and Pike County was no exception. Skaters also lacked a facility and dreamed of building a skate park. A group of sixteen interested youth and adults first met in 2007 and outlined the steps necessary to make their dream a reality.

Fundraising and awareness activities began that summer and more than 660 citizens signed a petition in support of a skate park. The group approached the City and Park Board and received approval for space and \$10,000 in discretionary funding. Additional funding was obtained through car washes, clean-up days, presentations to local organizations, merchandise sales at festivals and events and foundation grants.

The group was actively involved in the design of the park and numerous groups and businesses lended support or provided in-kind donations. The Union Difference donated labor to build the park.

Total Number of Volunteers:	175	Michele Westmaas
Total Volunteer Hours:	9,050	308 W. Jefferson
Total People Impacted:	4,000	Pittsfield, IL 62363
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 52,500	217/473-6450
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 6,500	momonamission@frontier.com

Project Winners

Division III

Communities with a Population of 5,001 – 10,000

Beautification and Sustainability

Community Greenhouse

City of Silvis

In 2006, the Silvis Garden Club came up with the idea to develop a park and education facility that would offer hands-on conservation and horticulture classes for area schools, youth groups, senior and other interested citizens. The city would benefit because all flowers used in the park and beautification efforts could be grown there.

An area containing a storm water retention pond was selected as the site. Committee members outlined the project and a phased in plan for development, then obtained Council approval. The project was funded with years of plant sales, bake sales, raffles and taco dinners by the Garden Club, private donations from businesses and citizens and in-kind labor from Iron Workers 111 Union.

The Club has grown from twelve members to seventy. Children love to explore the gourd tunnel near the pond. The Garden Club holds free classes on composting, container, and lasagna gardening. Additional vegetables are donated to the food pantry.

Total Number of Volunteers:	40	James Grafton
Total Volunteer Hours:	2,057	121 11 th Street
Total People Impacted:	750	Silvis, IL 61282
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 88,152	309/314-2399
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 59,161	jgrafton@silvisil.org

General

Dancin' in the Street

Village of Clarendon Hills

Downtown Clarendon Hills is home to a number of boutiques and restaurants that have loyal local patronage. However, to continue to be successful the businesses must draw people from surrounding communities. Downtown is not easily accessible and does not lie on a main route. The Dancin' in the Street concert series was created as "something extra" to entice people to make the trip.

Now in its' 13th year, the concert series continues to draw crowds each Wednesday for six weeks during the summer. On community surveys it remains a highly popular event and more than sixty percent of the village has attended within the last two years. Concerts are funded through sponsorship and sale of beverages during the event. The small-town feel and camaraderie Dancin' in the Street brings to Clarendon Hills is priceless.

Total Number of Volunteers:	8	Thomas Karaba
Total Volunteer Hours:	350	1 N. Prospect Ave.
Total People Impacted:	4,000	Clarendon Hills, IL 60514
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 0	630/286-5401
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 15,000	tkaraba@clarendonhills.us

Project Winners

Division III

Communities with a Population of 5,001 – 10,000

History and Historic Preservation

Spring Valley Historic Association Museum

City of Spring Valley

The approaching 125th Anniversary of Spring Valley renewed interest in a defunct historical society with the group's goal to secure a permanent home for retaining oral, written, pictorial and other physical memorabilia associated with Spring Valley. The preferred location would be in downtown business district, currently undergoing revitalization.

In August, 2010 the Society was able to obtain a loan to purchase a vacant bakery building in the district. Efforts began in earnest to renovate and open by the July, 2011 Anniversary. The group began a membership drive and fundraising campaign. Donations along with in-kind labor, goods and services enabled the first floor of the building to be completed and displays in place for the Celebration.

Total Number of Volunteers:	66	Debb Ladgenski
Total Volunteer Hours:	4,000	215 N. Greenwood
Total People Impacted:	5,500	Spring Valley, IL 61362
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 5,500	815/303-4327
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 50,000	sveconomics@comcast.net

Services and Mentorship

Community Center and Food Pantry

City of Harvard

According to the State Board of Education, 54% of the students in Harvard are considered low-income. Helping to fill the gap is the Harvard Food Pantry which has shared space with the Harvard Senior Citizen's Center for thirty years. Congregations of a core group of churches and numerous local businesses and groups ensure the Food Pantry stays in existence.

In the past, the Food Pantry has moved from one rental location to another. In 2009 they were facing another move. A plan for a new facility was developed and won Council approval. Now the group needed \$200,000 to achieve their goal. Through the generosity of many residents and businesses, discounted and in-kind services and the innovative use of the High School Building Trades Class for construction, the new Center was opened in September, 2011. At least 500 people toured the new, mortgage-free building at the Grand Opening.

The indirect benefits of this project are impossible to measure. All those involved are now stakeholders in its' success and a spirit of volunteerism has been renewed in the community.

Total Number of Volunteers:	528	Jay Nolan
Total Volunteer Hours:	4,560	P.O. Box 310
Total People Impacted:	24,744	Harvard, IL 60033
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 69,000	815/943-6468
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 186,461	mayor@cityofharvard.org

Project Winners

Division IV Communities with a Population of 10,001 – 25,000

Beautification and Sustainability Charlie and Betty Hillyer Memorial Gazebo Village of Midlothian

An enhanced village green had long been discussed by the Economic Development Council as a way to stimulate business in the downtown. It was felt that the addition of a gazebo to host a series of events would draw residents and visitors alike. However, with the economic downturn such an enhancement could only be accomplished through donations and volunteer efforts.

The initial fundraiser provided almost \$2,000 but the group quickly realized at least nine more events would have to be held to pay for the gazebo. The task was daunting and other options needed to be found. The Council decided on an aggressive marketing plan that included naming rights for the gazebo, publicity for the participating businesses through a banner program, inclusion on a monument, and acknowledgement as an event sponsor. The offer of participation was also extended to local families.

The project and marketing program received ongoing attention through personal solicitations and the scheduling of events on the village green. A temporary sign was installed announcing construction of the gazebo and the need for more volunteers and money, which led to in-kind service donations for electricity, masonry and a security system. The gazebo was officially opened with the lighting of the village Christmas tree.

Total Number of Volunteers:	106	Terrence Stephens
Total Volunteer Hours:	660	14801 S. Pulaski Road
Total People Impacted:	300	Midlothian, IL 60445
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 66,079	708/912-0633
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 56,585	tms162@aol.com

General Sharefest 2011 Village of New Lenox

Gary Cheney developed the concept of Sharefest after noticing that many of his fellow residents in New Lenox were living below poverty level and lacking necessities of food and shelter. His initial idea was to hold a volunteer event that would include a food and clothing drive and service project. He presented the idea to area groups and a Sharefest Committee was immediately formed.

Sharefest has been held every year since 2007. It includes "Eleven Days of Giving" beginning on September 1st and culminating on September 11th as a day of remembrance and service. Each day a different project is undertaken and in 2011 that included collection drives for books, clothing and home goods, food, blood, and items for the troops. In addition, a job fair was held, health fair provided, roadside clean-up completed, toys provided to the pediatric oncology unit and twenty-two service projects accomplished. A Patriot Day Ceremony is held on the last day.

Total Number of Volunteers:	565	Daniel Martin
Total Volunteer Hours:	1,190	701 W. Haven Avenue
Total People Impacted:	5,521	New Lenox, IL 60451
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 81,724	815/462-6128
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 6,100	dmartin@newlenox.net

Project Winners

Division IV Communities with a Population of 10,001 – 25,000

Parks and Recreation

Progress Park

Village of Brookfield

The Brookfield Beautification Commission is a volunteer commission of the Village that aspires to enhance the scenic environment through community involvement and raising environmental awareness. The BBC developed a master plan for community art which was approved by the Village Board in January, 2011. The plan included Eight Corners Business District, the central business and transportation hub, which had been declining. The goal was to convert the undeveloped property into a city park with a public art component.

A local artist offered assistance to design the mural. Fine Arts students at the high school participated in its' production. Local businesses provided in-kind services while the BBC continued to research, fundraise and market the project. Community enthusiasm allowed the murals and park to be completed in time for a November, 2011 Dedication Ceremony.

Total Number of Volunteers:	83	Pam Powers
Total Volunteer Hours:	1,002	9331 Monroe Avenue
Total People Impacted:	18,978	Brookfield, IL 60513
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 9,128	708/387-0551
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 125	Powers_chi@comcast.net

Services and Mentorship

Junior Fire Academy

Village of Richton Park

The Junior Fire Academy came as a result of numerous children stopping into the firehouse, asking questions, and wanting to see what was on the firetrucks. The Richton Park Fire Department, made up of part-time firemen, saw an opportunity to teach and influence future career selection.

The Junior Fire Academy has been held two weeks during the summer for the past seventeen years. Monday is program orientation and T-shirts are passed out to participants. Tuesday is Emergency Medical Services Day and children experience various forms of emergency medical response. Wednesday the Academy members run a modified agility course and play tug-of-war with the fire hose. Thursday includes presentations on various safety issues including how to operate a fire extinguisher. How to extinguish a car fire and use the Jaws of Life is demonstrated on Friday. Graduation completes the week with each member getting a certificate during a ceremony attended by family and followed by a celebratory cook-out.

Total Number of Volunteers:	25	Chief Jeff Cook
Total Volunteer Hours:	1,000	4455 Sauk Trail
Total People Impacted:	120	Richton Park, IL 60471
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 0	708/481-8985
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 0	jcook@richtonpark.org

Project Winners

Division V Communities with a Population of 25,001 – 70,000

Beautification and Sustainability Roosevelt Road Streetscape City of Berwyn

In the latter half of the twentieth century, Roosevelt Road changed from a bustling, pedestrian-oriented Main Street to an auto-oriented highway. Many of the traditional shops were replaced with fast-food restaurants, strip malls and parking lots. The communities on either side wished to retain a pedestrian feel and ensure a safe environment. Thus the Roosevelt Road Advisory Committee was formed.

The Committee included representatives from Berwyn, Cicero, Oak Park, and the Roosevelt Road Business Association. Together their goal was to identify solutions to guide Roosevelt Road's development in the coming decades by utilizing a planning study for the corridor.

Once the Master Plan was approved, the RRAC guided implementation of the recommendations. Project funding came from contributions by the three cities, state and federal grants. The end result was the complete re-construction, including new road and wider sidewalks, trees, benches, planters, bike racks and streetlights. The streetscape adds to the property values and encourages correction maintenance of properties .

Total Number of Volunteers:	14	Mayor Robert Lovero
Total Volunteer Hours:	350	6700 26 th Street
Total People Impacted:	30,000	Berwyn, IL 60402
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 0	708/788-2660
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 0	rlovero@ci.berwyn.il.us

History and Historic Preservation The Kalo Foundation: Saving Iannelli Studios City of Park Ridge

Park Ridge was once the place where many members of the creative arts community called home. Alfonsi Iannelli came to the area to sculpt the sprites for Frank Lloyd Wright's Midway Gardens and stayed to establish one of the region's most successful commercial art firms. In January, 2011 the Kalo Foundation learned a contract was pending on the Iannelli property which would result in demolition. Since its' founding in 2006, the Kalo Foundation has worked to safeguard the community's rich artistic heritage, and they quickly went to work on saving the Iannelli Studios.

They launched a fundraising and marketing campaign and came out in force with neighbors to protest a zoning change on the property. The change was denied which voided the pending contract. But the studio was still in peril as long as it remained for sale.

The Foundation continued their efforts, calling on multiple groups and businesses for donations. School students planned events to raise money, local artists gave their work to sell, and residents from age seven to eighty-five walked their blocks to collect money. On July 13, 2011 a firm contract was signed by the Kalo Foundation to purchase the Iannelli Studios. Restoration will continue but there is no longer a concern that Park Ridge will lose this special part of their cultural heritage.

Total Number of Volunteers:	2,850	Betsy Foxwell
Total Volunteer Hours:	124,000	522 N. Home Avenue
Total People Impacted:	38,563	Park Ridge, IL 60068
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 33,000	847/823-5314
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 320,000	betsy@interaccess.com

Project Winners

Division V Communities with a Population of 25,001 – 70,000

Parks and Recreation Three Oaks Recreation Area City of Crystal Lake

In 1991, Vulcan Materials presented a proposal to the City of Crystal Lake for mining rights under Three Oaks Road, which at the time ran through the middle of the mining operations. In exchange, Vulcan would deed the 500 acre site, including two lakes, to the City. In 1994 the City established a special Vulcan Lakes Study Committee with the ultimate goal of turning what would have been an eyesore into a destination recreational area.

By 2003 a conceptual plan was in place and by 2006, the last turnover of Vulcan land occurred. In 2008, a home rule tax was approved for the specific purpose of financing the \$14.5 million project. The design includes a 40,000 square foot beach, lake house, parking, sand volleyball, marina and three miles of trails. A majority of the construction of the area was completed by local contractors, which had a direct benefit on the economy. The City took great effort to restore the natural surroundings including over twenty acres of native prairie plants, the shoreline was stabilized to prevent erosion, and native oak trees were planted to replace invasive species. The Three Oaks Recreation Area is an example of successful community vision and planning.

Total Number of Volunteers:	50	Eric Helm
Total Volunteer Hours:	too many to count!	100 W. Woodstock Street
Total People Impacted:	130,000	Crystal Lake, IL 60014
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 0	815/790-9313
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 0	ehelm@crystallake.org

Services and Mentorship Community Resource Center Village of Hoffman Estates

The goal of the the Community Resource Center is to create meaningful programs and a beneficial link between government resources and the community in order to provide a safer and healthier environment. The previous Center, which opened in 2000 in an apartment complex, had limited space and could no longer meet the needs of the community. When a new police station was planned, the Village saw an opportunity to include space for a new Community Resource Center. The CRC could also utilize the Department's adjacent meeting rooms for training and education courses.

The CRC is open five days a week for up to four hours with a focus on parent and child activities. The City, School District, Library and Park Districts, and local businesses are involved in CRC programming. Programs include early childhood literacy education, domestic violence support, English as a second language, immunization clinics, girl scouts, counseling services and the provision of many services to the financially disadvantaged.

Total Number of Volunteers:	65	Dr. Algean Garner
Total Volunteer Hours:	3,000	1900 Hassell Road
Total People Impacted:	800	Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 22,500	847/781-4850
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 2,500	algean.garner@hoffmanestates.org

Project Winners

Division V Communities with a Population of 25,001 – 70,000

Services and Mentorship *Mobilizing Countryside Volunteers* *Village of Palatine*

There is an intrinsic value for those who volunteer, something that is desired by people of all ages and capabilities. People with disabilities often struggle to maintain an active and recognized role in society and yet they too desire to participate in and give back to their communities. Countryside Association for People with Disabilities recognizes this challenge and in response created Mobile Work Crews. The person with the disability has the opportunity to volunteer, learn new skills and fill a need that otherwise may go unfilled. The organizations learn more about the individuals volunteering and benefit from their hard work.

The staff polls the clients for suggestions that help determine where they volunteer. Sites that have a mission focused on serving people with disabilities or those in need are preferential. In 2011 this included Camp Read Leaf, Equestrian Connection, Palatine Food Pantry, Wings Resale Shop and Falcon Park. An outgrowth of the client's volunteer experiences resulted in the implementation of an onsite recycling program. The Mobile Work Crew collects aluminum cans, paper, electronics, used shoes, books, and crayons. Countryside volunteers take great pride in all they do and help to create a joyful experience for everyone!

Total Number of Volunteers:	68	Wayne Kulick
Total Volunteer Hours:	1,566	21154 W. Shirley Road
Total People Impacted:	1,335	Palatine, IL 60074
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 0	847/540-3701
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 1,500	waynek@countrysideassn.org

Honorees

Division V Communities with a Population of 25,001 – 70,000

Memorials and Monuments

9-11 Memorial Healing Field

Village of Carpentersville

The purpose of the Patriot Committee of Dundee Township is to develop public programming to recognize those who sacrificed for or served our nation. In recent history, no event stirred our patriotic hearts than September 11th, 2001. To recognize that tragic day, the Patriot Committee planned a Healing Field. The Field consisted of 2,976 American Flags representing all those who lost their lives during the attack.

The Healing Field was funded through private funds and in-kind services. Approximately 150 volunteers provided the manpower to design and layout of the field, assemble and install the flags and plan a memorial parade.

While the field was visited by over 15,000 and the parade attended by 5,000, the project also provided additional benefits to the community. More than 1,600 cell phones were collected for CellPhones for Soldiers, 102 units of blood donated and the Patriot Committee was able to donate \$10,000 to the Boys and Girls Club.

Total Number of Volunteers:	150	Mark Rooney
Total Volunteer Hours:	1500	1200 Besinger Drive
Total People Impacted:	15,000	Carpentersville, IL 60110
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 10,340	847/426-3439
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 58,310	mrooney@vil.carpentersville.il.us

Memorials and Monuments

Firefighter/9-11 Memorial

Village of Carpentersville

Since 1915, a group of men and women have provided fire protection in Carpentersville. It is with great pride that they are able to declare they have never lost a member in the line of duty. However, many lives have changed as a result of their service and many special and family events were missed. Throughout the U.S., communities have honored those lost on September 11th, 2001 in a memorial. When Carpentersville learned they were selected to receive a piece of the World Trade Center, a perfect marriage of honoring those lost and those serving was made.

A memorial park now stands outside of the Carpentersville Headquarters Station. The monument includes the artifacts, a large bronze fire helmet, and the Maltese cross. Two stones flank the monument with renderings of the "Firefighter's Prayer" and "The Last Alarm".

Funding came from donations as small as \$2 from an unemployed resident who wanted to be a part of the project to \$1,000. Businesses held fundraisers and the Village's employees held a spaghetti dinner. The memorial was dedicated September 11, 2011 and was followed by a parade to Healing Field.

Total Number of Volunteers:		John A. Schuldt, Fire Chief
Total Volunteer Hours:		1200 L.W. Besinger Drive
Total People Impacted:	400	Carpentersville, IL 60110
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 4,500	847/344-7300
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 4,000	jaschuldt@vil.carpentersville.il.us

Honorees

Division V Communities with a Population of 25,001 – 70,000

Memorials and Monuments

Rotary Club's 9-11 First Responder Memorial

Village of Oak Lawn

The idea for the 9-11 First Responder Memorial came at the confluence of two independent events. The Oak Law Rotary Club was looking for a special service project to commemorate its' 50th Anniversary. At the same time, the Oak Lawn Police Department learned historic steel from the wreckage of the World Trade Center was being released. The two parties came together and a "monumental team" was formed to dedicate a Memorial to the first responders and the resilience of the American spirit.

The project brought the community together in a way nothing else would. Residents, businesses and organizations worked together to raise the necessary funds and provide services.

The memorial was designed as a pedestrian-friendly space in the center of town next to the commuter rail station and adjacent to the Children's Museum. Highly detailed sculptures from vertical stelae and are topped by "herald wings". While it honors and acknowledges past events, it presents a positive message about the resilience of the American Spirit.

Total Number of Volunteers:	627	Village of Oak Lawn
Total Volunteer Hours:	392	9446 s. Raymond
Total People Impacted:	2,072	Oak Lawn, IL 60453
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 73,100	708/499-7743
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 82,000	Idetjen@oaklawn-il.gov

Memorials and Monuments

World Trade Center 9-11 Memorial

City of Quincy

Thanks to an Eagle Scout project the City of Quincy had an existing 9/11 Memorial outside of their city hall. However, when the opportunity came to acquire a salvaged piece of the World Trade Center, the City felt it would be a perfect compliment to the existing memorial and could commemorate the 10th anniversary of the tragic event. When the City applied for the artifact they discovered that a section of the antenna tower located on WTC Building #1 was available and had a direct connection to their community. This steel artifact supported a television broadcasting antenna that was designed, manufactured and tested in Quincy by Harris Corporation. A committee was formed to oversee the project.

In the weeks leading up to the memorial service and artifact dedication, the committee sought the expertise and assistance of many local businesses. An engineering firm donated a structural analysis, labor to install the foundation was provided and Harris Corporation purchased the 4,000 pound granite stone the artifact is mounted on. Other groups made purchases or provided in-kind services as well; no grants or local government funds were expended for the project.

Total Number of Volunteers:	75	Mayor John Spring
Total Volunteer Hours:	600	730 Maine Street
Total People Impacted:	40,665	Quincy, IL 62301
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 17,480	217/228-4545
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 0	mayor@quincyl.gov

Project Winner

Division VI Communities with a Population over 70,000

General

Celebrity Citizen Program

City of Springfield

Like most cities around the state, Springfield has had its' share of job losses and reduced revenues. The City looked to one of the community's top industries to help bolster employment and bring a much-needed economic boost to the community. Many of Springfield's residents are members of professional organizations, hobby or interest groups that meet annually at the state or national level. A "Celebrity Citizen" is a resident that suggests and then helps their organization to hold their meeting in Springfield.

There are multiple steps to attract a convention and the process can take several years to accomplish. The resident works with the Springfield Convention and Visitor's Bureau to create a competitive bid for their organization. If accepted, the resident then helps prepare budgets, form planning committees, find speakers, register attendees, creates publicity and much more to ensure the convention is a success. The volunteers often work "under the radar", even on their own, and the rest of the city is usually unaware of the great service they are providing. But since its' inception, Celebrity Citizens have brought 239 conventions to Springfield with an economic impact of \$23 million.

Total Number of Volunteers:	31	Fred Puglia & Gina Gemberling
Total Volunteer Hours:	thousands	108 North 7 th Street
Total People Impacted:	several thousands	Springfield, IL 62701
Value of Donated Materials/Services:	\$ 0	217/789-2360
Private Funds Raised:	\$ 0	Fred.puglia@springfield.il.us
		Gina.gemberling@springfield.il.us